AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently amended) A method of isolating nucleic acid and protein from each other in a sample, said method comprising contacting said sample with a plurality of particulate solid supports, wherein nucleic acid components contained in said sample become bound to the solid support in a sequence independent manner and protein components contained in said sample become bound to the solid supports ~~having a surface capable of~~ by effecting a chromatographic interaction
wherein the solid supports to which nucleic acids components are bound are distinct from the solid supports to which protein components are bound, and wherein the solid support are in the form of magnetic particles.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein both DNA and RNA are bound to the same solid support.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein DNA and RNA are bound to distinct solid supports.

4. (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein DNA and RNA are bound to different solid supports in separate steps.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein RNA and protein, or DNA and protein, or DNA, RNA and protein are isolated from the same sample.

6. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein said RNA is mRNA.

7. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein said DNA is genomic.

8. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the total RNA and/or the total DNA is isolated.

9. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the total nucleic acid component is isolated.

10. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the total protein component is isolated.

11. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said sample is a food or allied product, or is a clinical, environmental or biological sample.

12. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein prior to contacting said sample with said solid supports, the sample is subjected to a preliminary treatment step to free the nucleic acid and/or protein components from structures or entities in which they may be contained.

13. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein prior to contacting said sample with said solid supports, the sample is subjected to a cell isolation procedure.

14. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein one or more particular cell populations are specifically isolated.

15. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the sample, or a cell population isolated therefrom, is subjected to a cell lysis step prior to contacting said sample with said solid supports.

16. (Original) The method of claim 15, wherein cell surface proteins of cells within or isolated from said sample are subjected to an in vitro modification procedure prior to the cell lysis step.

17. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the sample is not divided at any stage of the method.

18. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the sample is divided after cell isolation and/or lysis or after said preliminary treatment step.

19. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said sample is contacted with said solid supports sequentially or simultaneously or in parallel.

20. (Original) The method of claim 19, wherein in a first step DNA is isolated from said sample, in a second step RNA is isolated from said sample and in a third step, protein is isolated from said sample, and wherein said steps may be performed in any order.

21. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein DNA is isolated on a support carrying surface carboxyl groups.

22. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein DNA is isolated by binding to a solid support, in the presence of a detergent.

23. (Previously presented) The method claim 13, wherein cell lysis and nucleic acid or DNA binding to a solid support occur simultaneously or concomitantly.

24. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein RNA is isolated using an RNA-specified capture-probe carried by or attached to, or capable of binding to said solid support.

25. (Original) The method of claim 24, wherein said capture probe is or comprises of dT oligonucleotide or dU oligonucleotide.

26-33. (Canceled)